Disarmament Session of UN

520. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether India participated at the U. N. Disarmament Session held in New York in April, 1992;

(b) what were the main issues discussed there and whether India put forward any specific proposals, if so, the details thereof and reaction of other delegates thereto;

(c) whether any broad agreement consensus reached over (i) nuclear non-proliferation (ii) to check monopoly of a few States over the control of nuclear weapons of mass destruction, range of missile technology and (iii) complete elimination of present day threat of nuclear weapons etc., and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) Yes Sir. India is participating in the 1992 session of the United Nations Disarmament Commission being held in New York from 20th April to 11th May 1992.

(b) The following agenda items are being discussed at the ongoing UNDC session :

(i) Objective information on military matters;

(ii) Process of Nuclear Disarmament in the framework of peace and security with the objective of the elimination of nuclear weapons;

(iii) Regional approach to Disarmament within the context of global security; and

(iv) The role of Science and Technology in the context of international security, disarmament and other related matters.

The Indian delegation is contributing to the discussions on all these issues.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Request by India to Afghan President for his Settlement in India

521. DR. ABRAR AHMED : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government of India have made a request to Afghan President Dr. Nazibullah asking him to settle in India permanently; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Release of Indian Fishermen and their Boats

522. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 1654 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 9th March, 1992 and state :

(a) whether Government have secured the release of 41 Indian fishermen and return of their 5 boats from the Pakistani authorities;

(b) if not, what are the impediments thereon and by when they are likely to be released; and

(c) what steps Government have so far taken in this regard and at what level the talks are going on ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Scuttling of Enquiry by Sri Lanka Government

523. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA :

SHRI KAPIL VERMA :

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have seen press ports about a signed affidavit of Mr. P.

Udugampola, a former Sri Lanka D.I.G. Police alleging that the Sri Lankan Presidtnt had scuttled an enquiry which could have provided a link between the assassination of the Sri Lankan Minister, Ranjan Wijeratne and Shri Rajiv Gandhi; and

(b) if so, what is Government's own information and reaction to report ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government are aware of the affidavit made by former Sri Lanka D.I.G., Mr. Premadasa Udugampola on 31-1-92 in which *inter alia* he has referred to a possible nexus between the method and manner of the assassinations of Mr. Ranjan Wijeratne, Sri Lanka Minister of State for Defence and Shri Rajiv Gandhi. Government have also noted the subsequent statement by the Sri Lanka Prime Minister in which he has debunked the allegations in the affidavit, stating that they contain many matters which are false and misleading. The statement also adds that on the basis of the investigations by the Sri Lanka CID, into the assassination of Mr. Ranjan Wijeratne, indictments have been filed in the Sri Lanka High Court.

Nevertheless, the possibility of a nexus between the assassinations of Mr. Ranjan Wijeratne and Shri Rajiv Gandhi is being looked into by our investigating agency.

Names of the Members of Governing Body of ICCR

524. CHOWDHRY HARI SINGH : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian Council for Cultural Relations has a Governing Body;

(b) if so, details of its constitution and how the members of the same are appointed; and

(c) the names of the present members of the Governing Body of the Council ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A Statement-I is laid on the Table of the House. (*See* below).

(c) A Statement-II is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement—I

The Constitution of the ICCR, a copy of which is placed in the Parliament Liberary, in Article 7 provides for the Governing Body to consist of the following members :

(i) President;

(ii) Three Vice-Presidents;

(iii) Secretary;

(iv) Financial Adviser;

(v) Three members nominated by the Government of India from among their nominees on the General Assembly;

(vi) Nine members to be elected by the General Assembly from amongst its members of whom at least one shall be a member of the Rajya Sabha and two of the Lok Sabha.

Statement—II

List of Members of the Governing Body of the ICCR

1. Dr. Shanker Dayal Sharma Vice President of India/President, ICCR
2. Shri J. N. Dixit Foreign Secretary/ Vice President, ICCR
3. Smt. Pupul Jayakar Vice President, ICCR
4. Shri H. Y. Sharada Prasad Vice President, ICCR
5. Smt. (Dr) Najma Heptulla Deputy Chairman Rajya Sabha
6. Shri Arvind Trivedi, MP
7. Smt Bibhu Kumari Devi, MP
8. Dr D. P. Chattopadhyay Calcutta